



11th & Bark 2021 Annual Report



11th & Bark

11th & Bark is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was formed to make the Columbia Heights Dog Park an official city off-leash dog park. We formed in 2015 to work with the District of Columbia to purchase the land, or create a lease agreement with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), so that we could improve the park. Thanks to the advocacy of supporters like you, the District is in the process of establishing a long-term lease with WMATA, and the DC Council has officially allocated funding to build out the park.

Board Members

Maggie Garrett, Chair
Cecilie Lindsay, Vice Chair
Eva Guenther, Secretary

Lori Robertson, Treasurer
Baird Wallace, Member
Eric Cuevas, Member



2021 Highlights

In 2021, we started inching toward normalcy even though some restrictions related to stopping the spread of COVID-19 remain. This year, we were able to restart our community dog park cleanups; hold in-person events, including the Halloween costume contest and Santa photo event; and even gather for Yappy Hours. It was nice to be able to connect with our neighbors again.



2021 also marked a year in which we made significant gains toward our goal of making the park an official District dog park. In August, the DC Council adopted its FY2022 budget, which included full funding for the build out of the park. We owe great thanks to Chairman Mendelson and other members of the Council for their efforts. In particular, Councilmember Nadeau and her staff have offered significant support to our efforts throughout the years, even when we faced unexpected twists and turns with WMATA.

But the budget allocation is just one step in the process. The District regulations that govern official District dog parks require that supporters submit an official application. That is why we spent many months gathering the necessary support for our application and preparing it for submission.

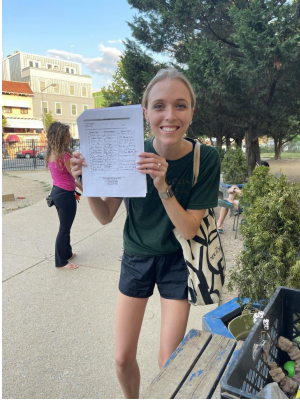
We still await another important step in the process: the District must sign a lease with WMATA to gain control over the property. The lease continues to be under negotiation, and we await a final agreement.

We greatly appreciate the continued support from the park community and the neighborhood. Your donations of time and effort allow us to host community events and keep the park as safe and clean as we can while it remains an unofficial dog park.



Dog Park Application

We worked tirelessly from June through December to complete the dog park application needed to turn our park into an official DC dog park. By the end of the year, our application was completed and ready to be filed in January 2022.



Our efforts garnered significant community support for the park. We gathered more than 500 signatures of support from people in the community. We also obtained letters and statements backing our efforts from the ANC-1A, 65 individuals, 3 neighborhood nonprofits (Community Wellness Alliance, District Bridges, Green Spaces for DC) and 11 neighborhood businesses. Those businesses include: Queen's English, Red Rocks, The Coupe, El Chucho, Odd Provisions, Wonderland, Ossobuco, Makan, Patrick's Pet Care, District Dogs, and realtor Leslie Knows Homes.

To gain this support, we completed a strategic outreach plan. This included:

- distributing approximately 500 informational flyers to the homes surrounding the park.
- attending the Columbia Heights Farmers Market to inform people about the park application and collect signatures.
- reaching out to large apartment buildings, condominium buildings, and a senior home in the area to ask their building managers to share information about the park application with their residents. These include Victory Heights, Monroe Tower, Columbia Heights Square, Kenyon Square Condominiums Arcade Sunshine, Park Place, Park Triangle, Highland Park, and 1020 Monroe St NW Condos
- hosting happy hours at Midlands and Hook Hall to inform people about the park application and collect signatures.
- taking several 2-hour shifts at the dog park to inform people about the park application and collect signatures.
- attending Open Streets to speak to people in attendance.
- providing information on our website and sharing information on our email listserv and on our social media platforms--FaceBook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Once the application is submitted, it will be published in the DC Register and there will be a 30-day period for public comment. The Department of Parks and Recreation will then review the application and the comments and will issue a recommendation. There is no time limit on this. But after DPR issues a recommendation, it must notify us within 30 days.

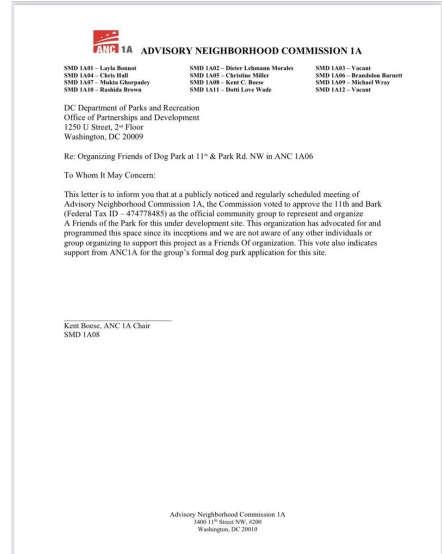
We look forward to working with DPR in 2022.



ANC Resolution

On November 10, 2021, the ANC 1A passed a resolution in support of our efforts to make the dog park official. New ANC Commissioner Brandon Barnett sponsored the resolution. After a few questions from the commissioners and a short presentation from the Chair of 11th & Bark, Commissioner Barnett moved to pass the resolution and Commissioner Dottie Wade Love seconded the motion. The motion was then passed unanimously.

We are so grateful to Commissioner Barnett for supporting both the park and 11th & Bark. And we are pleased that the first resolution he passed as a Commissioner was related to our park.



Community Events

Dog Behavior Seminar: We hosted trainer Joseph Ryan, CPDT-KA, VSA-CPDT, of Patrick's Pet Care, who presented an hour-long webinar to help our park patrons get the most out of their dog park experiences. He explained body language, avoidance and displacement behaviors, and what to do if an altercation arises.



Dog parks can be a wonderful place for your dog to get some energy out and socialize with friends; however, human intervention is sometimes necessary to keep the playing field level and fun for all dogs involved. We have to work together to keep our dogs safe and happy by being careful, responsible, and vigilant. The virtual event was recorded and is available on our website.

2021 Halloween Dog Costume Contest: The Halloween contest has been a community favorite for many years, and we were happy to organize and host it again. While we were excited to be able to be back to in person events, the success of the "virtual only" contest of 2020 and its ability to include those who cannot make the in-person event led us to keep the virtual "community favorite" award. Thus, this year's contest had both an in-person and virtual component.



The panel of judges of the in-person contest included: Brandolon Barnett, Neighborhood Commissioner, ANC, Brianne Dornbush from District Bridges, a community NGO, and Eric Cuevas, Member of the 11th & Bark Board. In front of an impressively large crowd, they crowned first and second place winners in four categories: Best Human & Dog Combo, Scariest Dog Costume, Cutest Dog Costume, and Most Original Dog Costume.

For the online contest for Community Favorite, members of the 11th & Bark Facebook Group voted to choose the first and second place winners, which were announced by Emily, a dog enthusiast and 3rd Grader who lives in the neighborhood.



Yappy Hours. As part of our dog park signature gathering efforts, we hosted two Yappy Hours for people and their dogs. We hosted a National Dog Day Happy Hour at Midlands. We also joined Hook Hall and District Dogs for an even bigger Yappy Hour, which included a dog painting station, and a Kamaji Company treat and pet supplies table.



4th Annual Dogs Meet Santa: This year we were happy to team up with another neighborhood nonprofit—the Columbia Heights Green—for our Dogs Meet Santa event. Columbia Heights Green, which is a neighborhood green space and community garden across the street from the dog park, provided a beautiful backdrop for photos with Santa and provided a COVID-19 safe setting. More than 60 dogs stopped by the Green to meet Santa, many of which have made this their annual holiday tradition. Our main fundraiser of the year, the Santa event raised more than \$800 for 11th & Bark. To share the holiday spirit with dogs in the DC shelter, we also collected in-kind donations, including unopened dog food, and toys, for the Humane Rescue Alliance.



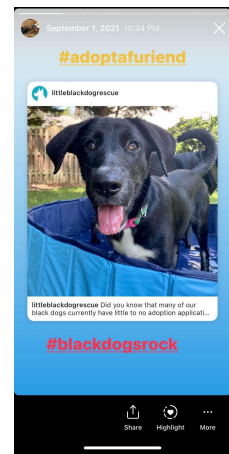
Cleanups

11th & Bark adopted the blocks surrounding the park as part of the Mayor’s “Clean City” program, and we have been holding quarterly cleanups for many years. Because of COVID-19, we limited our cleanups to Board members for several months. But starting in June 2021, we opened up our cleanups to the public again. During our June and December cleanups, we picked up trash, raked up leaves and dog poop in the dog park and surrounding streets, replaced the mesh along the fence, and disposed of the tree boxes that somebody had removed themselves, creating safety concerns for the dogs.



Connecting with the Community

11th & Bark continued to update our website and maintain a growing email list to keep dog park supporters and the community at large informed about the dog park and other community-related news. Our social media platforms, which continue to grow as well, are also used to provide this information. In addition, these platforms allow us to connect with the greater Washington area pet rescue organizations by sharing posts about lost and found dogs and highlighting dogs up for adoption. In a three-part Instagram series, we highlighted and celebrated small, dog friendly businesses in the neighborhood. In all areas of our work, we are committed not only to the dog park, but also to building community beyond the dog park gates.



Annual Meeting



The 2021 Annual Meeting was held via Zoom on Tuesday, November 16. ANC Commissioner Brandolon Barnett spoke about his ANC resolution, and David Meni from Councilmember Nadeau's staff gave us an update on the status of the park. 11th & Bark Board Members gave reports on the park application, the year's events, and how community members could get more involved with the park.

Financials

Total donations \$2,476.71

Total expenses \$1,509.63

Office expenses/printing \$207.06

Cleanups \$730.57

Event supplies \$22

Green Spaces Management fee \$550

We ended calendar year 2021 with \$3,277.02 cash on hand.